

Secretary's ofc.



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554
JAN 14 1997

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Robert E. Andrews
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
506A White Horse Pike
Haddon Heights, New Jersey 08035

Dear Congressman Andrews:

Thank you for your letter of December 2, 1996, on behalf of your constituent, Joseph T. Butts, Chief of Police, West Deptford Township, Thorofare, New Jersey. Chief Butts expresses his support for the Commission's recent proposed action to reallocate the current UHF broadcast band for other communications users including possible public safety use. Chief Butts also expresses concern regarding the possible effect on emergency services communications as a result of another of the Commission's recent proposals that establishes tentative policies for developing the initial digital television (DTV) channel allotments. Chief Butts expressed specific concern that the Commission's proposal to assign channel 21 to a television station currently licensed to Vineland, New Jersey, might impact an already congested spectrum region in the Philadelphia area and might severely disrupt land mobile operations due to adjacent channel interference to public safety services operating on channel 20.

On July 25, 1996, the Commission proposed policies for allotting channels for DTV service and also provided a draft DTV Table of Allotments. (See Sixth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ~~1996~~ **Docket No. 87-268**, FCC No. 96-317, released August 14, 1996). In that action, the Commission proposed to provide all existing television broadcasters with a second 6 MHz channel for digital broadcasting. The Commission's plan for allotment of DTV channels would maintain the channels currently used for land mobile operations in a number of major markets, including channels 19 and 20 in the Philadelphia and adjacent New Jersey region. While our draft DTV Table would provide for use of channel 21 in Vineland, New Jersey, we believe that engineering solutions are available for avoiding interference between DTV and land mobile operations on adjacent frequencies. At the same time, we understand the potential for interference between existing land mobile services and new DTV operations in the Philadelphia/New Jersey region. Please be assured that we are carefully evaluating all available alternatives for maintaining the interests of land mobile operators as well as broadcasters as we develop the DTV Table of Allotments.

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The Honorable Robert E. Andrews

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We will also include a copy of your letter in MM Docket No. 87-268. Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R" and a distinct "M" and "S".

Richard M. Smith
Chief
Office of Engineering and Technology

ROBERT E. ANDREWS
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3001

December 2, 1996

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Mr. Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20554-3505

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write to you on behalf of Joseph T. Butts, Chief of Police, West Deptford Township, Municipal Building, Grove Ave., and Crown Point Rd., Thorofare, NJ 08086, who has contacted my office for assistance. Enclosed please find correspondence regarding an urgent need for additional public safety radio channels. The West Deptford Police Department strongly supports action by the Federal Communications Commission to reallocate the current UHF broadcast television channels 60-69 to make a portion of that spectrum available for public safety use.

I would appreciate if you would afford Chief Butts and the West Deptford Township Police Department all due consideration under the law in their efforts. In addition I would be interested in receiving your review and reply to this correspondence so that I may advise them accordingly.

Please forward your response to the attention of my aide, Ms. Susan Gronek, at 506A White Horse Pike, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035, (609) 546-5100, Fax: (609) 546-9529. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



ROBERT E. ANDREWS
Member of Congress

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enc.

REPLY TO:

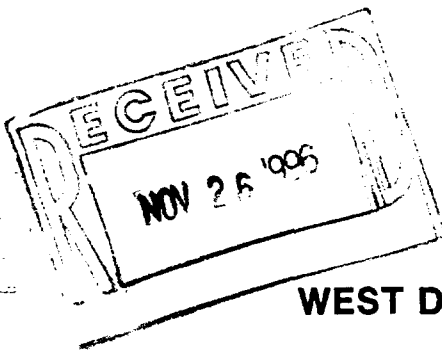
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WEST DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
GROVE AVENUE AND CROWN POINT ROAD
THOROFARE, NEW JERSEY 08086

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Phone: 845-2300

FAX 853-2940

JOSEPH T. BUTTS, JR.
Chief of Police

ANNA DOCIMO
Director of Public Safety

November 6, 1996

Secretary, FCC
1919 M. Street NW
Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Advanced Television Systems MM Docket
No. 87-268 and Their Impact Upon the
Existing Television Broadcast Service

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The West Deptford Township Police Department wishes to express its strong support for Federal Communications Commission action to reallocate the current UHF broadcast television channels 60-69, and make a portion of that spectrum available for public safety use. The first step in the process is reallocation of UHF channels 60-69 as proposed by your staff in the above referenced digital television proceeding.

There is currently an urgent need in many parts of the country for additional public safety radio channels. The Public Safety Wireless Advisory committee (PSWAC), co-sponsored by the FCC and the NTIA, recently released its final report which found that public safety agencies need at least 2.5 MHZ of additional spectrum right now for interoperability, at least 25 MHZ within five years, and an additional 70 MHZ within the next fifteen years.

West Deptford Township Police Department agrees with the PSWAC findings. We believe more radio frequencies need to be allocated for police work due to crowded channels, use of mobile data terminals, and other new technology, we don't need less. Only immediate FCC action in making available new spectrum can help alleviate the problems faced by West Deptford Township Police and many other public safety agencies around the nation.

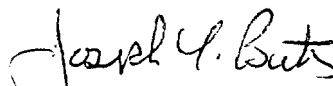
The spectrum within channels 60-69 is ideal for public safety use. This block of UHF channels is adjacent to the 800 MHZ mobile radio frequencies heavily used by public safety agencies.

We also urge the commission not to eliminate use of Channel 20 for land mobile service in the Philadelphia region.

Elimination of any channel is going to result in more congestion on those channels remaining. In addition, relocation of affected services within an already congested spectrum region cannot be accomplished without further reducing frequency assignment options for present and future licensees. Additionally, we urge the commission not assign Channel 21 to the Philadelphia region as it would severely disrupt land/mobile operations with co-channel interference.

West Deptford Township Police urges the commission to act expeditiously and favorably in this matter.

Sincerely,



Joseph T. Butts
Chief of Police

srn

cc: Senator Bill Bradley
Senator Frank R. Lautenberg
Rep. Robert Andrews
Senator Raymond J. Zane
Assemblyman Gary Stuhltrager
Assemblyman Jack Collins
Freeholder Stephen R. Salvatore
Freeholder Daniel Mangini